USAID EVALUATION AGENDA FOR FY 2003

1. Economic growth in the Islamic world.

This will be a briefing for the Administrator. It will explore the relationship between Islam and economic growth, and then provide some details about what kind of programming is effective in particular countries to promote EG- thus lessening the rise of fundamentalism due to disenchantment with a lack of economic opportunities. Estimated completion date: Power Point Presentation in June to the Administrator, and final paper in August.

2. Engaging moderate Islamic groups in building civil society.

The quality of post-conflict assistance in Afghanistan and Iraq has been in the press recently. Because this is a much researched field, and because of the new role that the Department of Defense is playing in this work, USAID/PPC's limited research staff propose to work on a related topic that clearly builds on USAID's comparative advantage. The purpose of the study is to identify models for how to engage moderate Islamic religious organizations in implementing socially and economically beneficial programs. We propose focusing on a set of countries in which we foresee heavy U.S. attention (e.g. Indonesia, Jordan, Bangladesh, Nigeria, Egypt, Turkey, etc.)

3. Budget support vs. other USAID assistance mechanisms.

A key issue in the Millennium Challenge Account is whether and how budget support should be employed. In addition, DFID, the Netherlands, the EU and World Bank are encouraging donors to gain efficiencies by jointly programming development assistance through LDC central governments. They are also urging the use of budget support rather than sector support or project assistance, in part because donors could gain more influence by working in concert. To feed into this DAC process, and to inform the design of the Millennium Challenge Account, we would examine:

- o What lessons have been learned from trying to harmonize donor assistance mechanisms?
- o Under what conditions are various mechanisms of assistance most effective?
- o In what combination are these mechanisms most effective? USAID might consider hiring a well-known person to lend credibility to this politicized topic.

Estimated completion date: September 30.

4. Anti-corruption follow-on with a possible field visit.

ESPA has commissioned a paper from a former USAID auditor to describe how USAID has been most successful in curbing waste, fraud, and abuse in the programming of its foreign assistance. While this will focus on examining USAID's experience, it is with an eye to future designs such as the MCA. Estimated completion date: July 25.

5. Scaling up of Child Survival Programs

This topic is included as one that would be finished this coming year, but take second seat to the other topics. In 2001, PHN wanted to understand why successful child survival pilots were not scaled up (replicated not just by USAID but by other donors or the host government). USAID spends a lot of money on pilots in various sectors that are never scaled up even after demonstrating impact. Findings about why pilot projects are or aren't scaled up have implications beyond the health sector. A contractor's report did a poor job in analyzing the data. S. Benoliel did not get to correct this work because she was taken off this assignment last spring to work on Education in the Islamic World. PHN would like her to finish this work, and she agrees. Estimated completion date: September 2003.

6. Global Development Alliance

What has USAID learned about working in public-private alliances to attract resources and ideas from NGOs, private businesses and foundations? How have public-private alliances enhanced USAID's development impact in cases where they have been used? To what extent do USAID policies and practices need adjustment to better facilitate the effective use of public-private alliances as a development tool? To what extent does the basic GDA approach need to be modified (if at all) to produce sustainable development? Is there a continuing need for the GDA Secretariat? The Secretariat has been extended until 9/30/04. At that point in time, what of GDA should be "mainstreamed" into the Agency's core structure, and how should this be done? Estimated completion date: February 2004.